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ANNUAL FLOWERS



COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE
SOUTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Growing Annuals in South Dakota

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INTRODUCTION AND DEFINITIONS

Annuals are plants which grow from seeds, attain maturity, flower, and produce seeds, all in one season, then die. They are different from perennials which grow and flower year after year, or biennials which grow vegetatively one year, flower the second season, then die. Some annuals appear to live over from year to year. Some hardy annuals may do this. These plants which seemingly persist in the garden from season to season self-sow and grow from seed which has wintered over in the soil. Some plants which are true perennials may be considered as annuals in our climate and be grown for one season. Some examples are pansy, pinks, and hollyhock.

USES

As a group, annuals come from all parts of the world. They are very versatile. They are admirable for bedding, for edging, or for "fill-in" material in the spring bulb garden and perennial border. They are also useful for filling in around new shrub plantings.

BASIC PRINCIPLES

Keep these basic principles in mind when selecting and growing annual flowers:

- * Soil Preparation. Dig the soil deeply, pulverize, and liberally enrich with well-rotted barnyard manure, compost, or other organic matter at the rate of about 5 bushels per 100 square feet of garden area. A 12-12-12 or similar commercial fertilizer—2 pounds used over the same area—may be incorporated during soil preparation.
- * To grow annuals successfully, start with vigorous plants or seeds. The best plan is to buy started plants. Next best is to sow fresh seed where the plants are to grow. Usually, the least satisfactory plan is to start your own plants indoors.
- * Procure started plants or seed from a reputable source. Investigate those cultivars (varieties) that are recommended for South Dakota and your growing site. Seedsmen are proud of their pure strains of annuals, and the desirability of using them cannot be over-emphasized. Note which cultivars have been awarded special citations. Most of them are truly superb.
- * Keep annuals blooming and prolong the blooming season by picking faded flowers from the plants all summer long. If this is not done, the plants will bloom for only a short time.

CLASSES OF ANNUALS

The symbols H, HH and T are often found in descriptions of specific flowering annuals. These

letters indicate hardy, half-hardy, and tender. They provide a key to the best time for sowing seeds and setting out greenhouse grown transplants. The planting times suggested in the following sections are for central South Dakota. Gardeners living in southern South Dakota may plant 7-10 days earlier. Gardeners living in northern South Dakota should plant 7-10 days later.

Hardy Annuals

The term hardy, as applied to an annual flower, indicates a plant that withstands some frost and usually one which comes up from self-sown seed in the spring. The seed is winter hardy and not injured by the cold, although the plant itself may or may not be winter hardy. Seed of hardy annuals can be sown in the fall or very early in the spring directly in the garden. These are the first annuals to plant out in the spring. If you have purchased greenhouse grown transplants, they are usually planted in the garden after May 15.

Half-Hardy Annuals

As applied to flowering annuals the term indicates that the seed and plant will stand some cold but not hard frosts. The seed should be sown outdoors only when danger of hard frost is past. A light frost will do no harm so long as the seedlings have not yet emerged from the soil. Greenhouse grown transplants of half-hardy annuals should be set outdoors approximately May 20.

Tender Annuals

Flowering annuals listed as tender will not stand any frost whatever, either as seed or seedling. Seed should be sown outdoors only after all danger of frost is past, preferably after the soil has warmed and the nights have turned mild. Greenhouse grown transplants should be set outdoors about May 30.

ANNUALS FOR SPECIAL PURPOSES

Annuals for Color

Not even among perennials can the brilliance and variety of colors match those of annuals. Annuals truly run the gamut of the spectrum. Beautiful effects can be achieved by using flowers in masses or beds with only two or three colors. The following are examples of combinations that have been tried and found to give excellent results. . .

Maroon and White: Pincushion Flower and Nicotiana; Snapdragon and Alyssum

Blue and Yellow: Marigold and Bachelor's Button; Zinnia and Larkspur

Pink and Yellow: Snapdragon and Marigold; Verbena and Zinnia; Phlox and Snapdragon; Pincushion Flower and Marigold

Pink and Blue: Phlox as edging for Larkspur; Pink and blue Larkspur; Geranium and Ageratum

Yellow, Orange, and Red: Yellow Cosmos, Nasturtium, and Zinnia; Marigold, Zinnia, and Salvia

Annuals for Fresh Flower Bouquets

Annuals planted in rows are a valuable addition to any vegetable garden. They may be cut and used for bouquets or floral arrangements without ruining the display as they would if taken from the permanent border planting or flower bed.

Among the best annuals for the cutting garden are the following:

Aster	Pansy
Bachelor's Button	Petunia
Bells of Ireland	Phlox
Carnation	Pincushion Flower
Cosmos	Pinks
Dahlia	Snapdragon
Gaillardia	Sweet Pea
Globe Amaranth	Verbena
Larkspur	Yellow Cosmos
Marigold	Zinnia
Nasturtium	

Annuals for Dried Flower Bouquets

Arranging flowers need not be limited to the summer months when garden flowers are plentiful. Many annual flowers may be cut and dried for use later in dried flower bouquets. These can be grown in the cutting garden along with annuals for fresh flower bouquets.

Annual flowers that dry well include these:

Bells of Ireland	Globe Amaranth
Cockscomb	Strawflower

Annuals for Shady Sites

More often than not it is difficult to grow good, healthy plants in shade. Plants grown with insufficient sunlight tend to grow tall and rank, have weak stems, and foliage and flowers may lack good color.

There are some annuals, however, which are fairly shade tolerant. They include:

Balsam	Snapdragon
Coleus	Vinca
Impatiens	Wax Begonia
Lobelia	Wishbone Flower
Pansy	

Annuals for the Rock Garden

The "backbone" of any good rock garden is a selection of low-growing evergreens, deciduous shrubs, and perennial plants. Annual are valuable

here, too, because of their brilliant color display, especially at a time when other flowers are not in bloom.

The best of the low-growing annuals for this purpose include:

Ageratum	Phlox
Alyssum	Pinks
Annual Flax	Snapdragon (dwarf)
Lobelia	Verbena
Marigold (dwarf)	Vinca
Moss Rose	Wishbone Flower
Pansy	

Annuals for Sunny Dry Sites

If you have a country place or a large lot, you may encounter a sunny dry area or a corner that is hard to water. Dependable annuals that will do fairly well in these difficult situations include:

Bachelor's Button	Gaillardia
California Poppy	Moss Rose
Cockscomb	Shirley Poppy
Cosmos	Yellow Cosmos
Creeping Zinnia	Zinnia
Four O'Clock	

Annuals for Climbing

Annual vines are frequently used to screen unsightly views, to provide vertical interest in a narrow space, or to fill in around permanent plantings. Some gardeners prefer annual vines to woody perennial vines. Annual flowering vines may be used to cover steep slopes, tree stumps, and other difficult sites. On a trellis they can form a thick growth of foliage, which provides color, privacy, and shade.

Annual climbers include these:

Morning Glory	Sweet Pea
Nasturtium	

Annuals for Fragrance

Fragrance in flowers has always been a joy to gardeners. Some flowers which seem odorless during the heat of the day have an appealing evening perfume.

Annuals with fragrant flowers include:

Alyssum	Pincushion Flower
Carnation	Pinks
Flowering Tobacco	Snapdragon
Geranium	Sweet Pea
Pansy	Verbena
Petunia	

Annuals for Edging

The ideal edging plant is dwarf, compact, and blooms continuously. It gives a neat and tidy finish to the flower border and has a lovely softening effect that is pleasing when edging the border, brick walks, drives or the patio.

The list of edging plants include these:

Ageratum	Marigold (dwarf)
Alyssum	Moss Rose
Dahlberg Daisy	Ornamental Pepper
Lobelia	Wax Begonia

Annuals for Containers

Colorful annuals growing in pots, tubs, boxes, hanging baskets, planters and other containers will decorate and brighten the patio or porch and add great warmth and cheer to the surroundings. Container-grown plants require more care than plants growing in the open ground. A special soil mix with good water holding capacity and drainage is usually suggested. It is necessary to water and cultivate more frequently. Faded flowers or discolored foliage should be removed regularly. Some annuals have cascade types. If they are available they are highly recommended for containers.

The following are reliable plants for containers. . .

<i>Ageratum</i>	<i>Pansy</i>
<i>Alyssum</i>	<i>Petunia</i>
<i>Geranium</i>	<i>Phlox</i>
<i>Lobelia</i>	<i>Verbena</i>
<i>Marigold</i>	<i>Vinca</i>
<i>Moss Rose</i>	<i>Wax Begonia</i>

Annuals for Damp Locations

For a planting near a pool, brook, or other area where the soil is moist, choose annuals that enjoy a damp condition around their roots. The following will do well. . .

<i>Anchusa</i>	<i>Phlox</i>
<i>Carnation</i>	<i>Pinks</i>
<i>Flowering Tobacco</i>	<i>Sweet Pea</i>
<i>Pansy</i>	<i>Wishbone Flower</i>

Annual flowers will provide summer long color and interest in your yard and garden. They are easy to grow. You can select annual flowers for almost any site or purpose. They will provide many summer hours of enjoyment and pleasure.

For additional information on specific cultivars of annual flowers suited to South Dakota, see the listing in the current 'Welcome to McCrory Gardens—Annuals' brochure.

Other available SDSU publications pertaining to the growing and use of flowers include the following. . .

FS 323—Perennial Flowers

FS 562—Flower Arranging

SELECTED ANNUAL FLOWERS FOR SOUTH DAKOTA

Botanical Name	Common Name	Height	Color	Uses	Class	Planting Site Preference
1. <i>Ageratum houstonianum</i> Dwarf Medium Tall	<i>Ageratum</i>	4-8 inches 9-12 inches 18-24 inches	Lavender, Blue, White, Pink,	Edging, Bedding, Rock Garden, Containers	Tender	Sun or partial Shade
2. <i>Alcea rosea</i>	Hollyhock	2-9 feet	Yellow, Pink, Red, Lavender, White	Border	Hardy	Sun
3. <i>Anchusa capensis</i>	Summer Forget-Me-Not	9-18 inches	White, Pink, Blue	Bedding	Hardy	Sun or Partial Shade
4. <i>Antirrhinum majus</i> Dwarf Medium Tall	Snapdragon	6-12 inches 18-24 inches 30-36 inches	All colors except blue	Bedding, Cut Flower, Rock Garden	Hardy	Sun or Shade
5. <i>Begonia semperflorens-cultorum</i>	Wax Begonia, Fibrous Begonia	6-16 inches	White, Red, Pink	Bedding, Edging, Containers	Half-Hardy	Shade or Partial Shade
6. <i>Callistephus chinensis</i>	Aster	18-36 inches	Lavender, White, Red, Pink, Blue, Purple	Border, Cut Flower	Half-Hardy	Sun or Partial Shade
7. <i>Capsicum annuum</i>	Ornamental Pepper	10-20 inches	Grown for its black, red, or purple fruits.	Bedding, Border, Edging	Tender	Sun
8. <i>Catharanthus roseus</i>	Vinca, Periwinkle	6-18 inches	Pink, White	Border, Bedding, Containers, Rock Garden	Half-Hardy	Sun or Shade
9. <i>Celosia cristata</i>	Crested Cockscomb	6-30 inches	Yellow, Red, Pink, Orange	Bedding, Cut or Dried Flower	Tender	Sun
10. <i>Celosia plumosa</i>	Plume Cockscomb	6-30 inches	Yellow, Red, Pink, Orange	Bedding, Cut or Dried Flower	Tender	Sun
11. <i>Centaurea cyanus</i>	Bachelor's Button	12-36 inches	Red, Blue, Pink, Purple, White	Border, Cut Flower	Hardy	Sun or Partial Shade
12. <i>Cleome hasslerana</i>	Spider Flower	3-4 feet	Pink, White, Lavender	Foundation, Border	Hardy	Sun or Partial Shade
13. <i>Coleus x hybridus</i>	Coleus	9-16 inches	Grown for its colorful foliage.	Border, Bedding	Tender	Shade or Partial Shade

Botanical Name	Common Name	Height	Color	Uses	Class	Planting Site Preference
14. <i>Cosmos bipinnatus</i>	Cosmos	5-6 feet	Red, Pink, White, Lavender	Border, Cut Flower	Hardy	Sun
15. <i>Cosmos sulphureus</i>	Yellow Cosmos	18-36 inches	Yellow, Orange	Border, Cut Flower	Hardy	Sun
16. <i>Dahlia</i> (hybrids) (seed types)	Dahlia	12-24 inches	All colors except blue	Bedding, Cut Flower	Tender	Sun or Partial Shade
17. <i>Dolichanthus ajacis</i>	Larkspur	2-4 feet	White, Pink, Blue, Red, Lavender, Purple	Border, Cut Flower	Hardy	Sun
18. <i>Dianthus caryophyllus</i>	Carnation	12-18 inches	Red, Orange, Pink, White, Purple, Yellow	Bedding, Cut Flower	Hardy	Sun
19. <i>Dianthus chinensis</i>	Pinks	6-12 inches	Red, Pink, White, Lavender	Bedding, Rock Garden, Cut Flower	Hardy	Sun or Partial Shade
20. <i>Dysodia tenuiloba</i>	Dahlberg Daisy	6-8 inches	Yellow	Bedding, Edging	Hardy	Sun
21. <i>Eschscholzia californica</i>	California Poppy	12-15 inches	Orange, Yellow, Red, Pink, White	Bedding	Hardy	Sun
22. <i>Gaillardia pultchella</i>	Gaillardia, Blanket Flower	18-24 inches	Yellow, Red	Bedding, Cut Flower	Hardy	Sun
23. <i>Gomphrena globosa</i>	Globe Amaranth	9-24 inches	Purple, White, Pink, Yellow	Dried Flower, Bedding, Cut Flower	Half-Hardy	Sun
24. <i>Helichrysum bracteatum</i>	Strawflower	12-36 inches	Yellow, Orange, Red, Pink, White, Purple	Bedding, Dried Flower	Tender	Sun
25. <i>Impatiens balsamina</i> Dwarf Medium Tall	Balsam	8-12 inches 18-24 inches 30-36 inches	White, Pink, Red, Yellow, Purple	Bedding, Border	Tender	Sun or Shade
26. <i>Impatiens wallerana</i>	Impatiens	6-18 inches	All colors except blue	Bedding, Border	Tender	Sun or Shade
27. <i>Impatiens purpurea</i>	Morning Glory	8-10 feet	Purple, Blue, Pink, Red, Yellow, White	Trellis	Half-Hardy	Sun
28. <i>Lathyrus odoratus</i> Bush Vine	Sweet Pea	18-24 inches 4-7 feet	All colors except Yellow	Border, Trellis, Cut Flower	Hardy	Sun
29. <i>Linum perenne</i>	Annual Flax	8-24 inches	Blue	Border, Bedding, Rock Garden	Half-Hardy	Sun or Shade
30. <i>Lobelia erinus</i> Bedding Types Cascade Types	Lobelia	4-8 inches 10-12 inches	Blue, White, Red, Pink	Edging, Rock Garden, Containers	Half-Hardy	Sun or Shade
31. <i>Labularia maritima</i> Compact Spreading	Alyssum	3-4 inches 6-10 inches	Lavender, White, Pink	Edging, Bedding, Rock Garden, Containers	Hardy	Sun
32. <i>Mirabilis jalapa</i>	Four O'Clock	18-30 inches	Red, Pink, Yellow, White, Striped	Hedge, Border, Foundation	Hardy	Sun or Partial Shade
33. <i>Molucella laevis</i>	Bells of Ireland	2-3 feet	Light green	Border, Cut Flower, Dried Flower	Hardy	Sun
34. <i>Nicotiana glauca</i>	Flowering Tobacco	1-3 feet	White, Red, Green, Lavender, Pink, Yellow	Bedding, Border	Hardy	Sun or Partial Shade
35. <i>Ocimum basilicum</i>	Ornamental Basil	1-2 feet	Grown for its foliage	Bedding, Broder, Herb	Tender	Sun
36. <i>Papaver rhoeas</i>	Shirley Poppy	24-30 inches	Pink, Red, White	Bedding	Hardy	Sun
37. <i>Pelargonium x hortorum</i>	Geranium	12-20 inches	Red, Pink, White	Border, Bedding, Containers	Half-Hardy	Sun
38. <i>Petunia x hybrida</i> Bedding Types Cascade Types	Petunia	8-15 inches 8-15 inches	All colors	Bedding, Containers, Cut Flowers	Hardy	Sun
39. <i>Phlox drummondii</i> Dwarf Tall	Phlox	6-8 inches 12-20 inches	Lavender, White, Pink, Yellow, Red, Purple	Bedding, Border, Containers, Rock Garden, Cut Flower	Hardy	Sun or Partial Shade

Botanical Name	Common Name	Height	Color	Uses	Class	Planting Site Preference
40. <i>Portulaca grandiflora</i>	Moss Rose	6- 8 inches	Pink, Red, Orange, Yellow, White	Bedding, Edging, Rock Garden, Containers	Hardy	Sun
41. <i>Salvia splendens</i> Dwarf Medium Tall	Salvia	8-12 inches 14-20 inches 24-30 inches	Red, Pink, White, Purple, Lavender	Bedding, Border, Foundation	Tender	Sun
42. <i>Sanvitalia procumbens</i>	Creeping Zinnia	6-8 inches	Yellow	Border, Bedding	Hardy	Sun
43. <i>Scabiosa atropurpurea</i>	Pincushion Flower	1-3 feet	Yellow, White, Purple, Blue, Red, Lavender, Pink	Bedding, Cut Flower	Half-Hardy	Sun
44. <i>Senecio cineraria</i>	Dusty Miller	8-15 inches	Grown for its woolly-white foliage.	Border, Bedding	Half-Hardy	Sun
45. <i>Tagetes erecta</i> Dwarf Medium Tall	Marigold (African)	10-14 inches 15-20 inches 30-36 inches	Yellow, Red, Orange	Edging, Bedding, Border, Containers, Cut Flower	Half-Hardy	Sun
46. <i>Tagetes patula</i>	Marigold (Dwarf French)	6-18 inches	Yellow, Red, Orange	Edging, Bedding, Containers, Cut Flowers, Border	Half-Hardy	Sun
47. <i>Tithonia rotundifolia</i>	Tithonia	3-6 feet	Orange	Border	Half-Hardy	Sun
48. <i>Torenia fourieri</i>	Wishbone Flower	8-12 inches	Blue	Border, Rock Garden	Half-Hardy	Shade
49. <i>Tropaeolum majus</i> Bush Semi-Trailing Climbing	Nasturtium	10-12 inches 2-6 feet 6-10 feet	Yellow, Orange, Red, White	Bedding, Trellis, Cut Flower	Tender	Sun
50. <i>Verbena x hybrida</i> Bush Spreading	Verbena	6-12 inches 6-12 inches	White, Pink, Red, Purple, Blue, Lavender	Bedding, Border, Rock Garden, Cut Flower, Containers	Half-Hardy	Sun
51. <i>Viola x wittrockiana</i>	Pansy	4- 8 inches	Purple, Blue, Red, Orange, White, Yellow	Bedding, Containers, Rock Garden, Cut Flower	Hardy	Sun or Shade
52. <i>Zinnia elegans</i> Extra Dwarf Dwarf Tall	Zinnia	6-10 inches 10-18 inches 24-36 inches	All colors except blue	Bedding, Cut Flower	Half-Hardy	Sun

ANNUAL FLOWERS

